

92-2357
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MAY 27 1993

Texas Department of Health

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARYDavid R. Smith, M.D.
Commissioner of Health1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756-3199
(512) 458-7111Robert A. MacLean, M.D.
Deputy CommissionerMs. Donna Searcy
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street N.W. Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20006

MAY 27 1993

Dear Ms. Searcy,

Enclosed you will find nine (9) copies of a letter to be distributed to the commissioners of the F C C. Please see that the are properly distributed. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Polk", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Polk
EMS Communications SpecialistNo. of Copies rec'd
List A B C D E

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Texas Department of Health

David R. Smith, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756-3199
(512) 834-6740

Robert A. MacLean, M.D.
Deputy Commissioner

May 12, 1993

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street N.W. Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner:

The EMS industry of Texas would appreciate your consideration of rural areas, regarding the frequency reallocation and refarming of the radio spectrum. Less than twenty five (25) large urban areas of the United States are entirely out of spectrum. While something does need to be done to alleviate the overcrowding of the spectrum in these areas, it should be noted that the majority of the land mass in this country does not share in the radio frequency saturation which now exists in these large populated areas. These major population areas need major changes to accommodate growth without impacting rural areas adversely.

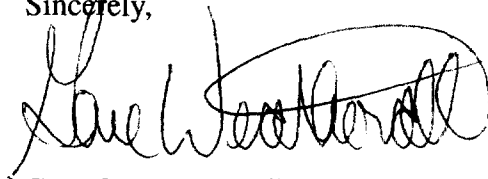
The proposal to make these large urban areas primary markets and other areas secondary markets has excellent merit and should be considered. A positive alternative would be the exemption of these secondary markets unless interference with a primary market occurs. Major refarming of the spectrum is an option that will require total replacement of the radio equipment in most of the local EMS agencies in Texas, both paid and volunteer. The funding required to implement these changes is simply not available. Any funding received is needed for the improvement of patient care and should not be applied toward the replacement of an effective, working radio system. In the public safety communications industry, available financial resources should be committed to the training of communications personnel in Emergency Medical Dispatch and other communications skills.

Additionally, the proposed ERP restrictions placed on radio equipment will severely restrict the efforts of rural pre-hospital providers to maintain the professional emergency medical service these communities deserve, need and expect. The lack of available funding needed to locate, purchase, and maintain additional repeater sites and build additional radio towers to house them puts the safety of our public at risk by causing extended response times, inadequate equipment, or at worst, no response at all due to the lack of communications.

Please consider the local government agencies and small firms that will be adversely impacted by this ruling before making a final ruling on PR Docket 92-235. The impact of this ruling could be devastating.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Weatherall", written over a horizontal line.

Gene Weatherall, Chief
Bureau of Emergency Management

cc: F C C Commissioners

cc: File